



## SOCIETY BUSINESS

## Archival/Preservation Committee Report

Members: Lori Morse, Bonnie Morse, Mark Morse

- Updated family files with new information regarding births, deaths, marriages, etc.

## Donated Artifacts/Documents/Ephemera

- Donor: Jill Smith – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Nov. 3-4 1927 Flood – a booklet of remembrances of the event from local residents.
- Donor: Ramona Godfrey – Map of Crossett Hill property owners in 1873 prepared by Paul Bigelow in 1971 using info from 1873 Beers Map.
- Donor: Jill Smith – When the Water Came to Waterbury – booklet copyrighted in 1928 with articles, photos and statistical data related to the 1927 flood in November 1927.

## Monetary Donations (as of 3-31-2024)

\* = Sponsorship donation for the upcoming “The Mob & Stonewall” presentation

\*\* = Judy Douglas - Memory Donation

Mary Bellinzier **	Nancy & Alejandro Martinez
Susan & Martin Brooks	Mame McKee
Lynne & Dan Cardozo	Bonnie & Mark Morse **
Elizabeth & Augustus Cobblah	Henry Parro
John Castaldo & David Myette	Darrick Pitstick *
Andrea & David deCamara	Chila Russell
Robert Dostis & Chuck Kletecka *	Cindy & John Senning
Amy Douglas & Doug White**	Puja & Dan Senning
Linda Eldredge **	Janice & Francis Sherman
Kimberly Fuller **	Laura & Greg Titus **
Breta & Steve Grace **	Dara Torre
Arthur Hull & Wayne Whipple *	Washington Electric Co-op
Robert Ivancic *	Sharon Wilson
Martha Jillson **	Sherry & Gary Winnie
John Kerrigan	Roger Wright
Comfort & Christian Leckerling	

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

### Notes from the February general meeting

By Ken Spencer

On the evening of February 21st Skip Flanders' slides projected on the wall elicited many an interesting story about old Duxbury — particularly about the evolution of the bridges. However, before that we voted on several offices and issues. We thank Laura Titus, Christian Magnani, Mark Morse and George Welch for continuing their officer and trustee roles. Mary Spencer became a new trustee and in addition I was elected as the 2024 president of the Society. I am very honored to succeed Donnie Welch, but it is a daunting prospect indeed. I am counting on his and your continued involvement to take the Society actively forward.

It is in the interest of creating more involvement that we voted to change the dates of the general meetings. The November and February meetings have traditionally been rather sparsely attended. Let's face it: going out on dark and cold evenings in Vermont can be daunting. Effective immediately there will be three meetings yearly occurring on the third Tuesday of May, July and September. An added benefit of the schedule change is that all of the meetings can be held at our property if we like. The newsletter will continue to be published throughout the year. For now the quarterly schedule will be continued. We are proposing that officers for the following calendar year be elected at the September meeting.

The special concert meeting in May is announced here! The society meeting portion will be greatly abbreviated, but members of the building committee will be available for questions afterwards.

### Building Committee Report

By Ken Spencer

The next time you're on your computer wandering around the World Wide Web you may want to click on [buildingsofnewengland.com](http://buildingsofnewengland.com). Beautiful photographs of many distinctive and architecturally significant buildings from all over New England are there for viewing with a brief description. Our two structures are included in this blog with pictures taken last year. We should be flattered that they were chosen, but the picture of the Sunshine Hall is perhaps too good. The building needs painting! Of course we are aware of that, and have had a recent estimate for lead paint removal and repainting. It came in at \$22,000.

Given the very high cost of construction, establishing the right priorities for the money we have already raised is paramount at this point. Our assets will obviously go much farther when used as matching funds with grants. We are looking at those intensively this year. On March 15th we had a site visit by Caitlin Corkins (a grants coordinator for the State of Vermont) and Jackson Evans (our representative at the Preservation Trust of Vermont). Joe Greene, our architect, was there as well and we had a positive discussion about the eligibility of our proposed changes to the Sunshine Hall for historic restoration grants. The committee is now wrestling with the job of breaking our big overall project into steps worthy of grants and identifying the appropriate ones.

One step in the project that came in perhaps for a little less money than we thought was the quote for external storm windows for the Meeting House. The windows need work, but there is no local restorer available for at least a year. It will also be a while before we would be able to afford to restore them all. The cost for putting storm windows on all eight of the original and identical windows is \$6200. This installation will serve four functions: 1) The original windows will be protected. 2) Gaps in the window frames will be sealed from outside elements. 3) Our new heaters will be more effective as heat loss is reduced. 4) There should be significant noise abatement. We applied for a matching grant through the Preservation Trust to cover this expense, but the committee voted to buy them regardless of the outcome of that. We should get them installed by early fall.

It looks like we are still a ways from digging that new foundation for the Sunshine Hall. As we enjoy events at the Meeting House be assured that the overall vision for a fully functional building next door is intact.

## SOCIETY BUSINESS

## Spring Flower Sale!

Our annual Spring Flower Sale is back! We are once again collaborating with Claussen's Greenhouse to offer gorgeous bedding plants, herbs, select perennials, and 10" hanging baskets for sale. All proceeds benefit the Duxbury Historical Society.

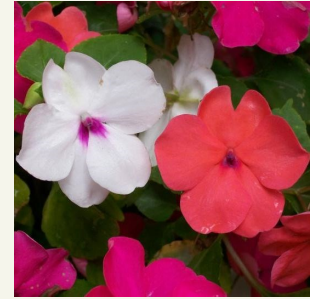
Order forms are available online or by calling Shawnee Perry (DHS Trustee) at 802-244-6496.

All orders must be made and paid for by Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Flower pick up will be at the Meeting House (formerly known as the Old South Duxbury Church) the week of May 20<sup>th</sup>. You will be contacted with specific details for pick up as they become available.

Check out our website and/or Facebook page for details!

We received rave reviews from people last year regarding the quality and beauty of the flowers...don't miss out on this great way to support the Duxbury Historical Society!



## Upcoming Event

Title: THE MOB & STONEWALL: Unraveling the Mafia's Influence in the 1969 Uprising

Date & Time: June 19, 2024, at 6:30 pm Eastern Daylight Time

Venue: Waterbury Congregational Church, 8 North Main Street, Waterbury, Vermont

Overview: Explore the collision of the LGBTQ community, The Mafia, and law enforcement during this pivotal moment. Discover the unexpected ways The Mafia's alcohol cartel influenced the riots. Learn about Vermont's connections to The Mafia. Engage in an eye-opening Q&A session with Alex Hortis.

Special Musical Guests: Arrive early to enjoy captivating melodies by The Champlain Shoregasm.

Support a Cause: While entry is complimentary, generous donations are welcome to benefit the Duxbury Historical Society, which is actively restoring and preserving its iconic buildings.

Sponsored By: Moose Meadow Lodge and other generous donors

About Alex Hortis: Alex Hortis is a constitutional lawyer and historian of crime. He has appeared on national television as an on-screen personality for AMC's *The Making of the Mob* (2015). Hortis has been interviewed on NPR stations across the country and for true crime podcasts. He has also been a featured speaker at the New York Public Library, the Enoch Pratt Free Library, and the Mob Museum in Las Vegas. Hortis's first book, *The Mob and the City: The Hidden History of How the Mafia Captured New York* (Prometheus, 2014), was praised by Jerry Capeci, the dean of mob reporters, who wrote: "If there's a better book on the early history of Cosa Nostra in America, I haven't seen it." Malcolm Gladwell quoted Hortis's book in "The Crooked Ladder: The criminal's guide to upward mobility" *New Yorker*, Aug. 3, 2014. The *New York Post* also featured Hortis's groundbreaking work on the Mafia's control of gay bars, in "How NYC's gay bars thrived because of the mob," *New York Post*, May 3, 2014. Hortis is a former federal law clerk for the United States Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. He is a graduate of New York University School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review. His writings have appeared in *New York University Law Review*, *New York Law School Review*, and in book anthologies on crime.

Reservations are strongly encouraged.

Donations benefit the Duxbury Historical Society.

REMEMBER WHEN ?

**Just One More Week**

Of our After Inventory Sale but there  
are still many good bargains left

Special Lot Ladies' Coats	\$4.95
Special Lot Dresses	\$1.59
Special Lot Dresses	\$1.95
Special Lot Men's Suits	\$12.00
Special Lot Ladies' Overshoes	49c

**LUCE BROTHERS, Inc.**

The Federated Store  
WATERBURY, VERMONT

**F. C. LUCE & SONS**

**Say**  
**Cash Prices On Fuel Are**

The Famous Blue Coal  
Delivered in Waterbury  
ton \$13.50

Niagara-Hudson Coke  
ton \$12.25

Soft Coal, 4 in. lump  
ton \$9.75

Tel. 213  
WATERBURY, VERMONT

Waterbury Record, February 2, 1939

### Folklore Stories Told At Waterbury By Mrs. DeLong

WATERBURY — Fourteen members of the Historical Society and one guest attended the winter meeting held in the library club rooms Wednesday evening. Mrs. Alice DeLong presented a talk on "Folklore of the Duxbury-Waterbury Area."

In her research Mrs. DeLong had discovered many humorous and thrilling stories of the early settlers. One was the ride of a Mrs. Montgomery on the first train into Waterbury Dec. 31, 1849, after walking from Scrabble Hill to the home of Mrs. Davis who flagged the train with her red tablecloth. She told of the breath-taking sleigh ride of Janus and Eurette Crossett who were followed by a catamount which Crossett foiled by pretending to throw their baby to it until they all reached home in safety.

She related the various legends connected with buried treasure on Camel's Hump, and of Reuben Muson, one of Duxbury's first settlers who answered the call for volunteers to meet the British at Plattsburgh during the War of 1812, making ready in 20 minutes to leave his wife and four children to join the other volunteers at Waterbury. In his later years he operated a mill in South Duxbury where he made carriages and wagons, and a cider mill as well. He was clerk of the South Duxbury Church for 22 years.

Mrs. DeLong told many interesting bits of church history. She listed many interesting place names, colloquial expressions, weather predictions and early home remedies, some of them quite startling. During a smallpox epidemic in the late 1700's it was voted to use a Mr. Tyler's house as a pest house, and the road was turned to avoid it. Later the house was returned to him with \$40 recompense for its use. On the question of inoculation for smallpox, the Duxbury voters turned it down, not wishing to introduce the disease into town.

Ralph Putnam, president, conducted the meeting. Stanley Chase of the program committee introduced Mrs. DeLong.

February 5, 1962

### Historical Weather

Sounds of distress have been heard in this area about the 37 inches of snow accumulated around us and the amount of below zero weather February is bringing us. The best advice we can offer to anyone at this time becoming a little discouraged with the weather is to be thankful that this isn't the winter of 1906-1907.

Mr. George Hackett of Newport has sent along a clipping to this office from a Stanstead Journal entitled "A Half Century Ago" dated Feb. 18, 1909. In reporting on a storm which started on Sunday afternoon at three o'clock and ending this morning (Monday) the article noted that 23½ inches of snow had fallen, making a total for the season to date of 128 inches.

The total snowfall during the winter of 1907-1908, however, was 134 inches, while the winter of 1906-1907 brought 171 inches of snow. — Newport Express.

February 18, 1963

### Five Baptized

On Sunday afternoon, with the Rev. C. Arthur Hazen of Waterbury conducting the service, the following were baptized: Lori Lynn, infant daughter of James and Cathleen Dalley, Kevin Rory, infant son of Albert, and Zelda Lavanway and Maurice Wayne. Wendell Guy and Glenn Farley, also sons of the Albert Lavanways Jr.

Among those who joined the church were Eldon DeLong and Mrs. Zelda Lavanway, both who transferred from Warren church. James Dalley, Mrs. Cathleen Dalley, Albert Jr., Miss Martha Cameron and Mrs. Myrtle Cameron also joined the church. Bert Cameron, who transferred his membership from the Waitsfield church, also became a member at that time.

The Burlington Free Press,  
November 14, 1960.



## FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES

## Duxbury Church Is Confronted By Problems

Landmark Neglected;  
Three Restoration  
Plans Are Submitted

Interesting History  
Dates Back To 1806

Duxbury is faced with the problem confronting so many Vermont towns today: What to do about her church which is located in South Duxbury. It is the only church ever built in the town. Currently, less than a dozen families



are actively connected with the church. Attendance is so small that services are rarely held. It is opened for an occasional funeral. As a landmark it is well-known, and, for some it holds many sacred and personal memories.

The South Duxbury church must be repaired this summer or be allowed to collapse. The roof leaks resulting in fallen plaster and water pools on the floor. So far, the floor has not been affected by the water.

At the annual meeting of the few members, the condition of the building was discussed. Three plans for repairs and restoration were then submitted by Cecil Percy of Waterbury. Plan one, which will repair the steeple to the original, will cost about \$1200; plan two, in keeping with the period that the church was erected, will cost \$800-\$900 but would be sturdier than the present steeple; plan three has been estimated at \$300, and would eliminate the steeple section by setting the weather vane directly onto the belfry. It was decided that everyone who was in any way connected with the church, or had a personal interest in it, would be contacted and given the opportunity to help save the building if they so desired.

Its history is interesting. Dating back to 1806, 14 years after Duxbury was organized as a town, are records of religious services held in the South Duxbury schoolhouse. As the community grew the schoolhouse became inadequate as a place of worship. Dec. 28, 1854, at 6 p.m., the people met and formed an association called "The First Union Society of the Town of Duxbury." At this meeting the third item on their agenda was "to elect a building committee to build a meeting house and to contract for the same." It was to be called a Union House, which was "to be occupied by each Denomination according to the amount by them paid." Six denominations are listed with the amount each member was to pay. Two paid in land, one paid in shingles (\$3.00), and one paid in lumber. Seven men gave money to be for benefit of all denominations.

At the meeting of October 16 the following report was made: "Your committee elected to supplant and contract for building a Meeting House in Said Town, have examined Said House built by Samuel C. Turner and say Said House is built according to contract and we the Committee Respectfully ask the Society accept our report." Committees were chosen for dedication arrangements (one man for each denomination), "to divide House," and "to appraise Pews."

The slavery question came up.

March 1, 1855 we find this entry made in the records: "Philemon Ashley, moderator, resolved not to have fellowship with slavery nor to invite slaveholding ministers to preach nor those who apologize for slavery nor sustain them nor to fellowship proslavery churches nor those ministers who are connected with proslavery associations."

But this resolution brought on unforeseen problems for the new church. September, 1866 a meeting was held to rescind the resolution above. It seems "no minister was free enough from Slavery" and that the members had "closed the door Sotite" that "we could not enjoy a communion Season."

Money came hard then, too, for we find about a year later they met to decide how to pay the \$171.00 still due Samuel Turner, the builder. Six members took unsold slips and paid the amount.

No women's names appear on the records until the church was completed.

These are but a few of the entries made in the old record books of this church. The original spelling and handwriting make the records interesting.

The committee fervently hopes that this church can be saved. This committee is comprised of the following: Mrs. Alice DeLong, Gurdon Merchant, Harry Backus, Murl Berno, and Frank Dunn. Clifford Carlson is clerk and treasurer.

A big two-day celebration is planned for sometime the first of August. There will be contests, shows, pony rides, ball game (young boys), and supper. All this is to raise money and to revive interest in the church.



FOUND IN THE ARCHIVES



New life for an old institution is the goal of a South Duxbury group planning a fund-raising festival to restore this century-old church's steeple.

### S. Duxbury Launches Drive to Save Old Church

SOUTH DUXBURY, July 5—An all-out drive is under way here to preserve this tiny community's most distinguished landmark—its century-old white church.

Efforts to organize the church date back to 1806—just 14 years after Duxbury was organized as a town. Its congregations once filled the building, recorded an early stand against slavery and prepared the setting for ordination of an English minister whose first pastorate was here.

But services in the building have been infrequent during the past few years. The building is in disrepair. Time and weather have left their marks.

The dozen or so families now connected with the church have gotten together funds needed to repair the roof. But \$1,200 is desired to restore the steeple to its original condition.

To do this, a committee plans a two-day festival in August.

Committee chairman, Mrs. Alice DeLong, says, "We want to start a traditional celebration to restore the church as something more than a landmark—a reminder of the past."

Her group is planning pie and horseshoe pitching contests, an antique and handicraft show, a ball game for the youngsters, a doll show and memorial services in the church and the older of two cemeteries connected with it.

"We hope to restore the church as a living tradition in the community and set it up so regular services may again be held."

Back in 1954, townspeople met and declared the South Duxbury school house inadequate as a place of worship.

They formed the "First Union Society of the Town of Duxbury" and set up a building committee to contract for a church.

It was to be called a "Union House" and occupied by each denomination according to the amount of their individual contributions.

Church records list six member groups. Two contributed land, another \$3 worth of shingles and a third provided lumber. Seven men donated money for the benefit of all denominations.

The present structure erected by Samuel C. Turner, whose grave is in the old cemetery, was accepted by a church committee and another committee—one man for each denomination—was named—"to divide House" and "appraise Pews."

It was early in the history of the newly founded church that its parishioners took a strong stand on slavery—only to later equivocate because of the press of conditions within the ministry.

On March 1, 1855, the records show, Philemon Ashley, moderator, resolved that the congregation "not have fellowship with slavery nor to invite slaveholding ministers to preach nor those who apologize for slavery nor sustain them, nor to fellowship proslavery churches nor those ministers who are connected with proslavery associations."

But in September, 1856, a meeting was held to rescind this resolution.

Strong abolitionist sentiment bowed before the practical need of a clergyman to guide the flock. For it seems:

"No minister was free enough from slavery" and the members had "closed the dore Sotite" that "we could not enjoy a communion Session."

These and many other facts of the church's early history have been turned up by Mrs. DeLong who is planning a commemorative service to climax the August festival.

It is hoped one of the most active periods in the church history will be reviewed by Rev. Henry Joseph Chandler.

The Britisher, now retired and living out of the state, was ordained here in 1933 in ceremonies in which two of his sons took part. Both had preceded him into the ministry and came here from foreign pastorates to take part in the ordination. Sunday services then drew an attendance of 50 or so parishioners.

Assisting Mrs. DeLong with planning the celebration are Gordon Merchant, Harry Backus, Murl Berno and Frank Dunn. Clifford Carlson is clerk and treasurer.

The Rev. C.A. Hazen of Waterbury, Barre City representative and Mayor C.O. Granai, who preached here, and the Rev. William Vigne of Waitsfield are expected to take part as are many area residents.

Mr. Hazen served the church during its final periods as an active community institution. Keith Wallace of Waterbury, president of the Vermont Farm Bureau, is also slated to participate in the celebration which will include a traditional church supper. This tradition is fine, Mrs. DeLong indicates, but she and her group plan—and are working to breathe new life into the church and to restore its physical beauty.

*I sent the same write-up to the Burlington Free Press. On July 4, 1957 a reporter from that paper interviewed me. Above is his write-up.*  
*Alice De Long*

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**DON'T FORGET THE NEXT MEETING - MAY 21ST  
SOUTH DUXBURY MEETING HOUSE - 7 PM**

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S O C I E T Y ,   I N C .  
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